THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Friday, the 5th March 1948.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at eleven of the clock, Mr. President (THE HON. SRI R. B. RAMAKRISHNA RAJU) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—" Mr. President, before the questions are answered, I should like to make a submission, Sir. Owing to some unfortunate circumstances, whenever any hon. Member arrives late in the House, and when his question comes up before the House first, it is generally passed over. Yesterday I arrived late in the House by about a few minutes and my question was passed over. In the previous Council it used to be the practice that if a Member whose question stands first or second, comes a little late, he had been given indulgence by the Chair to put his question later. May I also request you, Mr. President, to extend the same indulgence to the Members hereafter."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I do not quite understand the hon. Memeber . . . May I know when he came late and when his question was passed over? "

SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—" Yesterday I was late by about five minutes, Sir. I was not here in my seat, Sir, when my question was answered and I had no opportunity to put supplementaries. So I request that whenever a Member is not present, or if he comes late, his questions may be taken up last."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I thought that I was showing an indulgence to hon. Members by allowing their questions being answered by the Government, even when they were absent. If that is not sufficient, I shall consider the hon. Member's suggestion for future guidance."

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Central Nazir, District Court, Chingleput.

* 29 *Q*.—SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR : With reference to the answer to starred question No. 96, dated 21st October 1947, will the Hon. the Home Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the reports called for from the High Court have been received by the Government;

(*b*) whether the Government are in a position to answer that question at the next sitting of the Council;

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(c) whether it is a fact that the High Court has found the Central Nazir to have contravened the provisions of the Government Servants' Conduct Rules;

(d) whether it is a fact that the High Court ordered the forfeiture of the valuable presents received by the Central Nazir;

(e) whether it is a fact that the High Court found that the steno-typist's complaint was not unfounded or vexatious; and

(f) whether it is a fact that the High Court has yet directed the District Judge to frame appropriate charges for insubordination against the steno-typist?

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" (a) A report in regard to the allegations against the Central Nazir has been received. The report on the enquiry against the complainant is awaited.

" (b) The answer is in the affirmative so far as the enquiry against the Central Nazir is concerned.

" (c) The answer is in the affirmative.

" (d) The High Court has recommended that the valuable presents received by the Central Nazir should be surrendered to the Government or that he should pay their value. The question regarding the disposal of the articles which are now in the custody of the District Judge, Chingleput, is under the consideration of the Government.

" (e) & (f) The Government have no information. They await the High Court's report in this regard."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" Evidently the remarks of the hon. Mr. Sarma refer to this question, because Mr. Muthuranga Mudaliyar who has put this question is not present!"

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" If I may be permitted to intervene, Sir, the usual parliamentary practice is that if a member who has put a question is not present, it is passed over and if he arrives before the question-time is over, his question will be taken up again and he will be allowed to put supplementary questions, Sir. Otherwise the answers will be printed in the proceedings."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I know that the procedure that I follow here is this. If the Minister is prepared to answer, I usually allow him to do so, even though the Member who has put the question is not present and I hope it has met with the approval of this House. If the Minister has no objection and if he is ready to answer, it does not matter if the Member is not present and I also allow supplementary questions on it. That has been my procedure."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" Sir, in the lower House, the procedure followed is different."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" But here, I follow the above procedure."